

**CAPSULE SUMMARY****BA-1364****Mount Zion United Methodist Church****20901 Mount Zion Road****Freeland, Baltimore County****Ca. 1886****Private**

The Mount Zion United Methodist Church is located at 20901 Mount Zion Road in Election District Six in Baltimore County. The vernacular Gothic Revival-style church was erected circa 1886 as the Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church. The one-story church was established near Freeland, a thriving center of trade in the 19th-century. The congregation was originally established prior to 1830 in a log school nearby. In 1886, the current church, which is the second to occupy the land which was deeded by Isaac Morris in 1856, was erected for \$3,500. Reverend J.S. Kilgore dedicated the building in September of 1886.

The wood-frame weatherboard clad church is rectangular in shape with a front-gabled asphalt-shingled roof with an off-center Gothic Revival-styled bell tower addition. The one-story building measures three bays wide, including the attached tower, and four bays deep. It is clad in vinyl siding and sits on a solid stone foundation. The main entry is located on the west elevation in the tower. The church is detailed with colored-glass multi-light lancet-arch windows with overhanging eaves, a raking cornice, rebuilt interior end brick chimney, and an off-center gabled bell tower. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws on the Gothic Revival style with its front-gabled roof, wood-frame construction, and lancet multi-light windows. The church sits on a slight rise on the east side of Mount Zion Road, near Freeland, and is supported by an historic cemetery. The property features mature trees, shrubs, and a gravel driveway.

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
___district	___public	___agriculture	___landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___commerce/trade	___recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	___ buildings
___structure	___both	___defense	<u>x</u> religion	<u>1</u>	___ sites
<u>X</u> site		___domestic	___social	___	___ structures
___object		___education	___transportation	___	___ objects
		<u>X</u> funerary	___work in progress	<u>2</u>	___ Total
		___government	___unknown		
		___health care	___vacant/not in use		
		___industry	___other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>2</u>	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1364

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Mount Zion United Methodist Church, located near Freeland in Baltimore County, was constructed circa 1886. The wood-frame weatherboard clad building is rectangular in shape with a front-gabled asphalt-shingled roof with off-center Gothic Revival-styled bell tower addition. The one-story building measures three bays wide, including the attached tower, and four bays deep. It is clad in vinyl siding and sits on a solid stone foundation. The main entry is located on the west elevation in the tower. The church is detailed with colored-glass multi-light lancet-arch windows with overhanging eaves, a raking cornice, rebuilt interior end brick chimney, and an off-center gabled bell tower. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws on the Gothic Revival style with its front-gabled roof, wood-frame construction, and lancet multi-light windows. The church sits on a slight rise on the east side of Mount Zion Road, near Freeland, and is supported by an historic cemetery. The property features mature trees, shrubs, and a gravel driveway.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary façade of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, composed of the main block and tower, faces west. It is sited parallel to Mount Zion Road, and measures three bays wide. The off-center entry, located in the tower, features a single-leaf paneled wooden door with aluminum surround. A gabled overhang supported by wood posts shelters the door. A steep-pitched asphalt-shingle pyramidal roof caps the two-story tower. The second story of the tower features a vertically oriented multi-light Gothic-style window with aluminum surrounds and aluminum vents located just beneath the eaves. The main block of the façade is detailed with two symmetrically placed elongated Gothic-style multi-light lancet windows with aluminum surrounds and sills. A decorative multi-light roundel window with aluminum surrounds pierces the gable peak. The façade also displays overhanging eaves with an aluminum soffit.

The south elevation measures four bays wide and features slightly overhanging eaves. The elevation is composed of four symmetrically placed lancet-arched multi-light Gothic-styled windows with aluminum-clad surrounds and square-edged aluminum-clad sills.

The eastern, or rear, elevation features a central three-side projecting apse. Clad in aluminum siding, the bay is capped by a half-hipped metal roof with slightly overhanging eaves and boxed aluminum cornice. The central portion features no fenestration, but each side is pierced with a multi-light lancet-arched Gothic-Revival style window. In addition, a multi-light roundel window with aluminum surrounds is located just above the projecting apse. The elevation also reveals a small vinyl 1/1-window in the gable peak and overhanging eaves with an aluminum soffit.

The north elevation almost mirrors the south elevation. It measures four bays wide and is composed of three symmetrically placed elongated lancet-arched windows. The multi-light Gothic-styled windows feature aluminum surrounds and square-edged aluminum sills. The projecting two-story tower obscures the westernmost bay. The tower features no fenestration, only vents beneath the roof, on the rear elevation.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1364

Name Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 20902 Mt. Zion Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

---

However, it is pierced with under-eave vents as well as a first and second story centrally located multi-light lancet window.

### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building was not accessed during this phase of the survey.

### OUTBUILDINGS

A cemetery sits to the north of the church. It consists of approximately 200 graves. Some of the older stones include a headstone dating to 1861. It is constructed of granite set on an upright slab with shouldered stone with a decorative willow motif. The headstone has no footstone and commemorates Ann Dick. Another older stone reads 1852-53 Daughter of (illegible) Morris. It is a small, upright headstone of granite with a segmental-arch cap. The oldest stone dates to 1845. It is a segmental-arched granite headstone for Michalah Freeland, who died Oct. 21, 1845. The cemetery dates primarily from the early-to-mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The rows are parallel to the road, facing west. The oldest stone is located to the north of the church and the newer stones are to the east.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1364

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

<b>Specific dates</b>	1906	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1906		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Mount Zion United Methodist Church is located at 20901 Mount Zion Road in Election District Six in Baltimore County. The vernacular Gothic Revival-style church was erected circa 1886 as the Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church. The one-story church was established near Freeland, a thriving center of trade in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. The congregation was originally established prior to 1830 in a log school nearby. In 1886, the current church, which is the second to occupy the land which was deeded by Isaac Morris in 1856, was erected for \$3,500. Reverend J.S. Kilgore dedicated the building in September of 1886.

The vernacular wood-frame church was constructed in the Gothic Revival style. Reflective of this style is the steeply pitched center gable, vertical off-center tower, and multi-light lancet-arched windows. Although introduced to the United States from England in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), a landscape architect and promoter of the also popular cottage residence and Carpenter Gothic style, popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism. Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences*, published numerous times between 1842 and 1873, touted the advantages of the inexpensive, detached dwelling. He claimed that the English cottage style was "so generally admired for the picturesqueness evinced in its tall gables ornamented by handsome verge-boards and finials...showing how the genius of pointed or Gothic architecture may be chastened or moulded into forms for domestic habitations."<sup>1</sup> Wood frame dwellings with horizontal cladding dominated the Carpenter Gothic Revival style, while stone construction remained popular in the vernacular buildings and high style dwellings. According to Downing, the setting for cottage residences was particularly important. In keeping with this aspect of the style, the church is set on a slight rise along Mount Zion Road, near Freeland.

Freeland is located in the picturesque Sixth Election District in the northwest corner of Baltimore County. A rugged landscape and fertile valleys, near one of the wealthiest areas of the county marked the agricultural district. In the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the district had an area of 38.05 square miles and a population of 2,235 by 1870. It is bounded on the north by Pennsylvania, the south by the Fifth District, the east by the Seventh district, and the west by Carroll County. Arable fields for plantings of wheat, corn, oats, and fruits, located in the numerous valleys, supported the district. In addition, the waterpower of the Gunpowder Falls and its tributaries supported numerous farms and mills throughout the district. The small village of Freeland,

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Jackson Downing, *Victorian Cottage Residences*, (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981), p. 42.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. BA-1364

Name Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 20902 Mt. Zion Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

---

located twenty-eight miles from Baltimore and three miles south of the Pennsylvania line, served as a station for the Northern Central Railroad.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1364

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.  
Haile, Elmer R., Jr. "Post Offices in the Long Green Area." *History Trails Newsletter*. Baltimore Historical Society, Autumn 1975.  
Maryland Historical Trust Vertical Files.  
Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .2 acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name New Freedom Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Baltimore County, near Freeland, has been historically associated with the property at 20901 Mount Zion Road since its construction circa 1886.

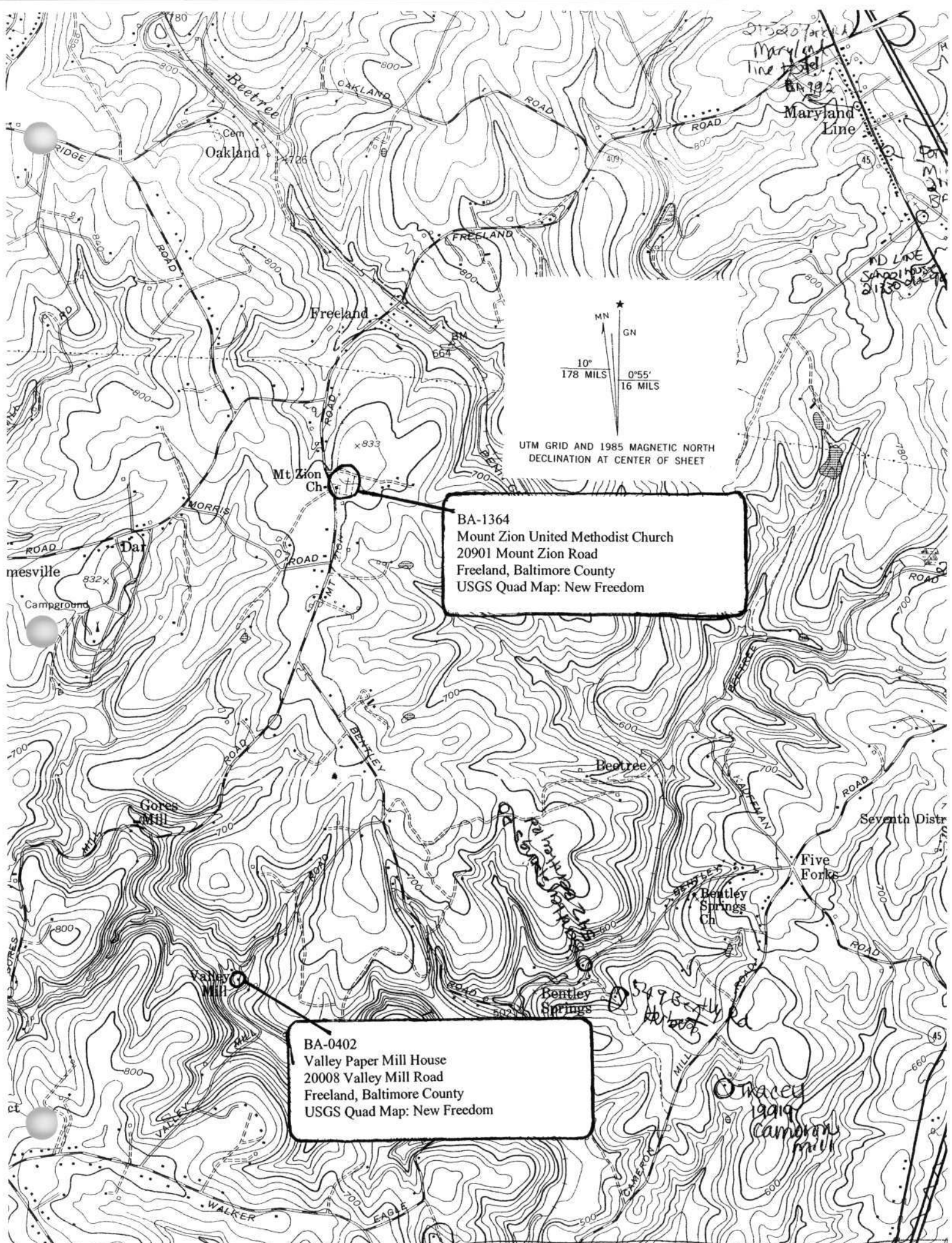
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.	date	March 20, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street, NW	telephone	(202)393-1199
city or town	Washington, DC	state	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



BA-1364  
Mount Zion United Methodist Church  
20901 Mount Zion Road  
Freeland, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: New Freedom

BA-0402  
Valley Paper Mill House  
20008 Valley Mill Road  
Freeland, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: New Freedom

MN  
GN  
10°  
178 MILS  
0°55'  
16 MILS  
UTM GRID AND 1985 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





BA-1364  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
20901 Mt. Zion Road  
Baltimore County, MD  
Traceries

3/01

MD SHPD  
church, Northwest corner, view looking Southeast  
Photo 1 of 4



BA136A  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
20901 Mt. Zion Road  
Baltimore County, MD  
Traceries

3/01  
MD SHPO  
Church, southwest corner, view looking Northeast  
Photo 2 of 4





BA 136A

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

20901 Mt. Zion Road

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

church, northeast corner, view looking southwest

photo 3 of 4



BA-136A

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

20901 Mt. Zion Road

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

church & cemetery, view looking South

Photo 4 of 4